This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing, or identifying a predisposition to the development of, ~~a macular degeneration related disorder~~ age-related macular degeneration in a subject, comprising detecting in a biological sample from the subject the presence or abnormal levels of an autoantibody against, or an immune complex containing, at least one macular degeneration-associated molecule.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said macular degeneration-associated molecule is selected from the group consisting of ~~fibulin-3~~ fibulin-1, fibulin-2, fibulin-3, fibulin-4, fibulin-5, fibulin-6, vitronectin, β crystallin A2, β crystallin A3, β crystallin A4, β crystallin S, glucose-regulated protein 78 kD (GRP-78), calreticulin, 14-3-3 protein epsilon, complement 1q binding protein/hyaluronic acid binding protein, serotransferrin, albumin, keratin, pyruvate carboxylase, type IV collagen, elastin, C reactive protein (CRP), clusterin, metalloelastase, and villin 2.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting comprises contacting the biological sample with said at least one macular degeneration-associated molecule or an antigenic fragment thereof, and detecting a specific interaction between the autoantibody and the at least one macular degeneration-associated molecule or an antigenic fragment thereof.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting comprises precipitating the immune complex from the biological sample.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising detecting a level of the autoantibody or immune complex in a control subject and comparing levels of the autoantibody or immune complex in the subject and the control subject.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said biological sample is a urine, eye fluid, blood plasma, serum, whole blood, or lymph fluid from the subject.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of precipitating a complex formed between the autoantibody and the at least one macular degeneration-associated molecule or an antigenic fragment thereof before the detecting step.

8. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of contacting the biological sample with a labeled antibody that competes with the autoantibody to form complexes with the at least one macular degeneration-associated molecule or an antigenic fragment thereof.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one macular degeneration-associated molecule or an antigenic fragment thereof is bound to a solid phase and the method further comprises the step of removing the solid phase from the serum sample to separate the complexes from unbound, labeled antibody.

10-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one macular degeneration-associated molecule is vitronectin, haptoglobin, or immunoglobulin light chain.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising detecting at least one macular degeneration-associated genetic marker, drusen-associated phenotypic marker, or drusen-associated genotypic marker in the subject.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising examining the subject with an ophthalmologic procedure.

16-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the macular degeneration-related disorder is age-related macular degeneration, and~~ the method comprises detecting in a biological sample from the subject the presence or an abnormal level of an autoantibody against vitronectin, choroid, Bruch's membrane, RPE, or a retina-associated protein.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said biological sample is a urine, eye fluid, blood plasma, serum, lymph fluid, or whole blood from the subject.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the detecting comprises contacting the biological sample with vitronectin or an antigenic fragment of vitronectin, and detecting a specific interaction between the autoantibody and vitronectin or a specific interaction between the autoantibody and the antigenic fragment of vitronectin.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising detecting at least one genetic marker associated with age-related macular degeneration.

24-32. (Canceled)